

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SIG-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER/BTK
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
ARA/AND:TSONANDRES (DRAFT)
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EUR/CE:RCASAGRANDE (DRAFT)
EUR/NE:RWOODS (DRAFT)
AA/LA:DLION (DRAFT)

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O 302134Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098431

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: EAID, JM

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR JAMAICA

1. IN THE MARCH 3 MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND
JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON, IT WAS AGREED THAT

JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEES WOULD BE FORMED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE. THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF DEEPENING ECONOMIC CRISIS IN JAMAICA. (AT THE END OF LAST YEAR JAMAICA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES WERE NEGATIVE DOLS 200 MILLION, REAL GNP FELL APPROXIMATELY TEN PER CENT 1975-76, AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS ESTIMATED AT TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.)

2. THE GOJ HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, INCLUDING A LIMITED DEVALUATION WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED APRIL 22. HOWEVER, THE GOJ HAS NOT YET REACHED AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE IMF, AND WE BELIEVE AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF IS A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ANY EFFORT TO RESOLVE JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. THE JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (PARA 1 ABOVE) WILL BEGIN WORK IN KINGSTON MAY 2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE U.S.

TEAM WILL BE TO MAKE A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE GOJ AND DRAW UP A SCOPE OF WORK FOR A SECOND JOINT EXPERT COMMITTEE.

4. GIVEN THE SIZE OF GOJ ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE MUST BE NUMEROUS. WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT HOST GOVERNMENTS OF SOME ADDRESSEES MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE JAMAICAN PROBLEM. ACCORDINGLY, HEAD OF THE U.S. TEAM GOING TO KINGSTON
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FOR MAY 2 TALKS, DONOR LION (ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR LATIN AMERICA) APRIL 28 BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICERS FROM WASHINGTON EMBASSIES OF CANADA, FRG, VENEZUELA AND THE U.K. (DUTCH EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING BECAUSE OF A MINISTERIAL VISIT.)

5. LION EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, OUTLINED THE JAMAICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION (STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF), AND NOTING THAT THE U.S. CANNOT UNDERTAKE ANY MASSIVE BOP SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA.

6. CANADIAN DCM COMMENTED THAT CANADA IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO ASSISTING JAMAICA. VENEZUELAN EMBASSY OFFICER ASSERTED THAT HIS COUNTRY ALREADY GIVING JAMAICA BOP ASSISTANCE. QUESTION OF OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL COMMITTEES OR IN RESULTS OF THEIR WORK WAS RAISED BY GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE. (WE SAID THIS IS

A MATTER TO BE EXPLORED WITH THE GOJ.)

7. ALL EMBASSY REPS PRESENT AT APRIL 28 MEETING PRE-SUMABLY WILL BE REPORTING TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTS OF ANY HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS OR VIEWS ON JAMAICAN SITUATION.

8. NO MATTER HOW THIS FOLLOW-ON TO VANCE/PATTERSON DISCUSSIONS TURNS OUT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FIRST TEAM INITIATIVE BE UNDERSTOOD FOR WHAT IT IS: A FACT-FINDING, STAGE-SETTING MISSION AS PART OF A REAL WISH OF THE USG TO EXPLORE AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE. IMMEDIATE US BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE, IF ANY, WILL LIKELY BE VERY LIMITED FOR SEVERAL REASONS, ESPECIALLY BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS.

9. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING IF QUESTIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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RAISED BY HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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